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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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EAST TIMOR

REPORT AND EMERGENCY APPEAL No. 16

FOR 1986

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SPECIAL EMERGENCY ACTION: EAST TIMOR

To cover the costs of its humanitarian work in East Timor for 1986 the International Committee of the Red Cross is appealing for contributions to the value of:

SFr. 1,848,700

The appeal for support contained in this report is based on an account of the attainment of objectives in 1985 and a budget calculated on the expected achievement of objectives set for 1986.

DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS
OP/LSNG
Geneva, January 1986

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) derives its mandate principally from the Geneva Conventions, from the Resolutions of the International Conferences of the Red Cross (in the proceedings of which representatives of governments signatories to the Conventions both take part and vote), from the Statutes of the International Red Cross and from its own Statutes.

It undertakes the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions and works for the faithful application of these Conventions.

It takes action in its capacity as a neutral and independent institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife and tensions. It endeavours to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such situations and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve, in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties.

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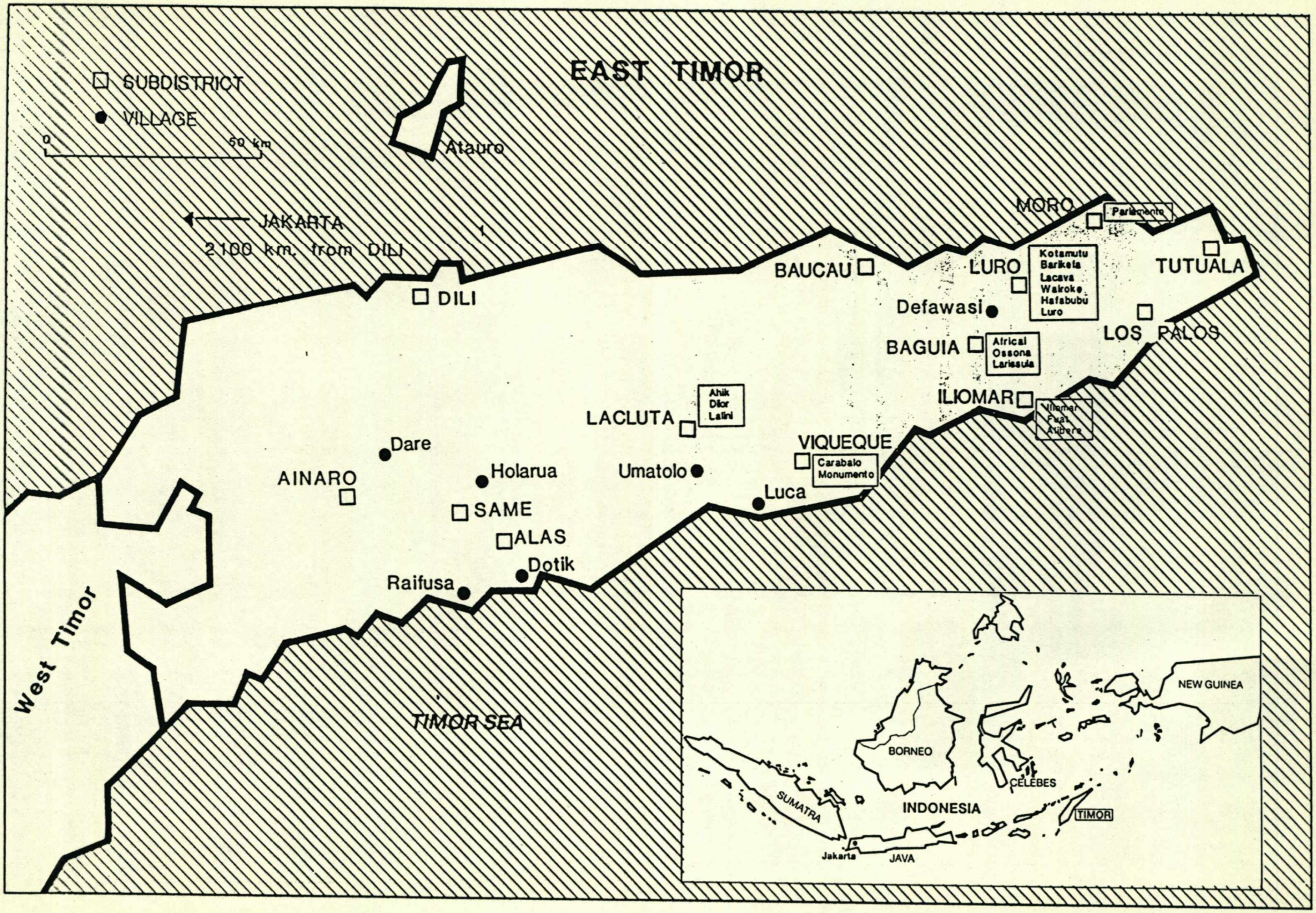

EAST TIMOR
SUBDISTRICT
VILLAGE
0
50 km
Ataúro
JAKARTA
2100 km. from DILI
DILI
BAUCAU
MORO
Parlamento
LURO
Kotamutu
Barikeia
Lacava
Wairoke
Hafabubu
Luro
TUTUALA
Defawasi
LOS PALOS
BAGUIA
Africal
Ossona
Lariessula
ILIOMAR
Uliomar
Fuat
Atibere
LACLUTA
Ahik
Dilor
Lalini
VIQUEQUE
Carabalo
Monumento
Dare
AINARO
Holarua
Umatolo
Luca
SAME
ALAS
Dotik
Raifusa
West Timor
TIMOR SEA
NEW GUINEA
BORNEO
CELEBES
SUMATRA
INDONESIA
TIMOR
Jakarta
JAVA

EAST TIMOR

BACKGROUND 1975 - 1984

1 The ICRC went to East Timor in August 1975, following the outbreak of hostilities, to provide protection and relief assistance for the victims of the conflict. In December of that year, it was no longer in a position to continue its operation. Only in 1979 was the ICRC able to resume part of its activities. Throughout the entire period in which the ICRC has worked on East Timor, efforts have been made to develop and strenghthen protection, tracing and relief assistance programmes.

2 An operation to provide medical and relief assistance was launched on the main island in October 1979. The operation was run jointly with the Indonesian Red Cross and continued until 1983. In July of that year, the ICRC had to interrupt its assistance activities because it no longer had access to the interior of the main island. This situation continued until April 1985 when authorisation was given to assess the medical and nutritional situation in the interior.

3 The programme to provide food and medical assistance for displaced people on the island of Atauro (off Dili) has continued without interruption since its inception in early 1982. There were approximately 4,000 displaced people on Atauro at that time. This number has fallen steadily.

4 In protection matters, in 1982 the ICRC was able to begin visiting places of detention where people were being held in connection with the events on East Timor, though on a limited scale. Only in 1984 did it become possible to broaden this activity and carry it out more systematically.

5 Lastly, the main tracing activities programme was set up by the ICRC in late 1979. It involved re-uniting families and organising repatriations, mostly from East Timor to Portugal but also to other countries such as Australia.

1985 REPORT

OVERVIEW

6 Discussions with the Indonesian authorities in February and March led to an agreement outlining ICRC activities on the main island of East Timor as well as on the off-shore island of Atauro.

7 In the field of protection, the ICRC carried out two series of visits to four detention places in April and November.

8 In May, the ICRC was again granted access to the interior of the main island where it carried out a medical and nutritional survey in twenty five villages. After this evaluation, and again in December when they returned to five of these villages, delegates submitted their conclusions and recommendations to the authorities who took the necessary steps to improve the situation, where it was necessary.

9 The food and medical programme set up to help displaced people on Atauro continued throughout the year. The displaced population on Atauro numbered 1,267 in December 1984 but in December 1985 only 940 remained. The ICRC also was granted permission to assess the situation of those who returned from Atauro to the main island, the so-called returnees.

10 In addition, the ICRC continued to re-unite families, a programme which began in 1979. Under a separate agreement negotiated between the Portuguese and Indonesian Governments, former Portuguese civil servants and their families, about 400 people in all, were to be repatriated to Portugal. The ICRC was requested by both parties to organise these repatriations and this programme started in January 1986.

11 In June and August 1985 the ICRC issued *EAST TIMOR REPORTS No. 14 and 15*, which contained information on ICRC activities during the first half of the year, the scheduled activities for the second half of 1985 and the budget for the operating period 1 July to 31 December 1985. It was stated that resources already made available were sufficient to cover the costs of the operation until the end of 1985.

12 The present report therefore only mentions the objectives for the second part of the year, but it also

refers to the achievements for the entire reporting period, that is the whole of 1985.

OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Protection

Objective:

13 *To carry out three series of visits to places of detention.*

Achievements:

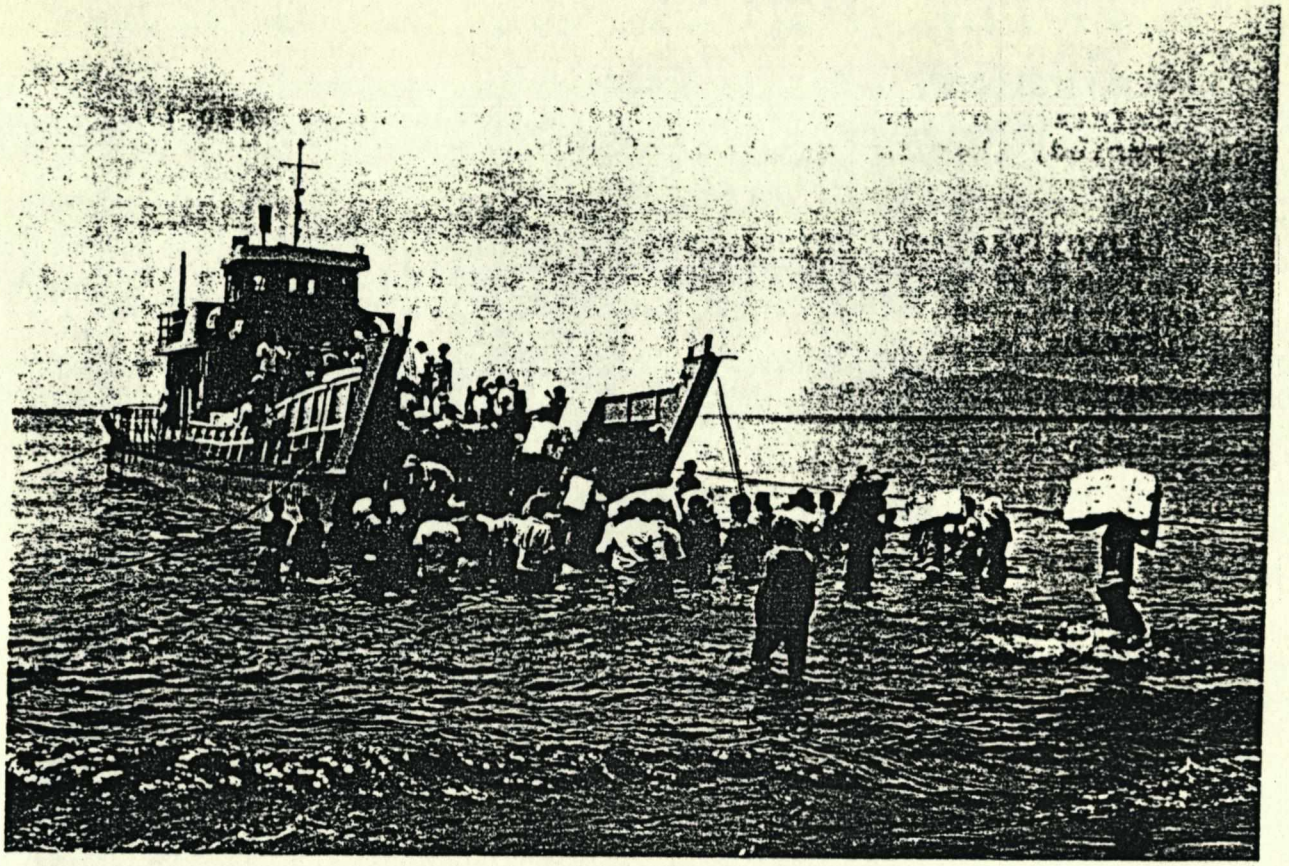
14 Only two series of visits could be carried out. Between 6 and 26 November 1985, two ICRC delegates, a medical delegate and a nurse, visited four places of detention (Cipinang prison and Tangerang prison at Jakarta, Comarca prison and Becora prison at Dili) in which 225 persons were detained in connection with the events on East Timor. Among the detainees in Comarca were nineteen people recently transferred from other places in the interior of East Timor. Visits were carried out by a team of two delegates, a doctor and a nurse, according to ICRC criteria. This included interviews by the delegates without witnesses with detainees of their choice.

15 A similar series of visits had taken place in April 1985 (see *Report No. 14*) in which 228 people were visited. The ICRC submitted confidential reports to the authorities after these visits.

16 In all, the ICRC visited 279 people who had been detained in connection with the events in East Timor.

17 During their visits, the delegates distributed relief to the detainees valued at SFr. 12,723 and consisting of supplementary food rations, hygiene and recreational material.

18 In addition the ICRC also assisted families of detainees in need of aid, namely with clothing and school material worth SFr. 2,950.



Tracing Agency

Objective:

19 *To continue the programme of family re-unification and of repatriation to Portugal and Australia.*

Achievements:

20 The programme to re-unite separated families between East Timor and the exterior continued in 1985. Under this programme, nine people returned to Portugal and five went to Australia.

21 In addition, an agreement was reached under United Nations auspices between the Indonesian and Portuguese Governments for the return to Portugal of former Portuguese civil servants in East Timor. The ICRC was asked by the two parties to organise the repatriation of them and their families -- a total of over 400 people. A first group, of thirty one, arrived in Lisbon on 22 January 1986. The programme is being financed by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

Objective:

22 *To continue the exchange of family news through Red Cross messages.*

Achievement:

23 The system for exchanging family news through Red Cross messages, instituted by the ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross, continued to function throughout the year. This service was used mainly by the detainees visited by the ICRC and by displaced people on Atauro. About 10,000 Red Cross messages were forwarded during the reporting period.

Relief on Atauro

Objective:

24 *To continue the medical and relief assistance programme for displaced persons on Atauro island; to provide food rations for two months for the people being returned to the main island.*

Achievements:

25 The programme of medical and relief assistance for the displaced people on Atauro, carried out jointly by the ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross, continued throughout 1985. There were 1,267 displaced people on Atauro in December 1984, only 940 remained in December 1985. Some 50 members of the Indonesian Red Cross (including one doctor and an ICRC nurse) had distributed 275 tonnes of corn, beans, butteroil, tinned meat, condensed milk, salt, and soap by the end of November, along with 21 tonnes of supplementary food rations and fuel wood for the feeding centre serving particularly vulnerable groups, such as undernourished children, pregnant women, nursing mothers and the elderly. The relief goods were valued at SFr. 380,050. An Indonesian Red Cross doctor and a nurse were made available as part of the medical assistance.

26 In addition, the ICRC/Indonesian Red Cross provided food rations for 2 months before their departure to the people who have been returned to the main island (a total of 11,4 tonnes valued at SFr. 13,150).

27 Furthermore 7 tonnes of food items worth SFr. 66,718 (mainly butteroil) were distributed to the resident population of Atauro.

28 The Atauro programme was carried out under the supervision of an ICRC nurse who spent an average of three weeks a month on East Timor.

Surveys on the Main Island

Objectives:

29 *To carry out a new medical/nutritional survey in the most vulnerable villages, previously visited in June 1985, and in other parts of East Timor.*

Achievements:

30 A comprehensive medical/nutritional survey in 25 villages on the main island took place between 28 May and 15 June 1985 (see *East Timor Report No. 15*).

31 A new assessment was conducted between 14 and 18 December among approximately 17,000 inhabitants of the following five locations, which appeared vulnerable at the time: Raifusa, Dilor, Luro,

Parlamento/Moro and Iliomar.

32 The procedure used to evaluate the medico-nutritional situation was as follows:

- Nutritional Status

  The "Quac-Stick" method (measurement of bracchial circumference and height of children from 1 to 6 years).

- State of health and hygiene

  The general health of the population, medical facilities (equipment and personnel), water supply, in quality and quantity, and general conditions of hygiene were evaluated.

- General situation

  The agricultural situation and the reserves of foodstuffs available to the population were observed by the random sampling method.

33 As in the case of the preceding survey, the conclusions drawn from this evaluation, together with the ICRC's recommendations, were submitted to the authorities. The latter informed the ICRC that they would take the appropriate measures to remedy the situation if necessary. A special committee, consisting of representatives of the East Timor health and agriculture services, was established for this purpose by the local authorities and is working in close co-operation with the ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross.

Surveys for Returnees

Objective:

34 *To assess the conditions in which returnees (people who have returned from Atauro to the main island) have been resettled.*

Achievements:

35 In conformity with the understanding between the ICRC and the Indonesian authorities, two ICRC delegates and an ICRC nurse, accompanied by an East Timor public health service doctor, made a new survey concerning the persons who had been brought

back to the main island after being displaced to Atauro. The delegates were in the Cailaco region from 7 to 9 October 1985 and evaluated the conditions under which 668 persons had been resettled. They next visited the region of Manatuto, to which 85 persons had been brought back from Atauro. The observations of the delegates were submitted to the authorities. A similar survey had been made in the Ainaro/Dare region in April 1985, where the situation of 600 returned persons was examined (see *Sitrep No. 14*). A total of 1,354 returnees were visited by the ICRC during the year.

Transportation

36 A private boat, hired by the ICRC, transported relief supplies from Dili to Atauro. A helicopter chartered jointly by UNICEF and the ICRC for twenty and ten hours a month respectively, continued to be used to transport people and light loads.

Personnel

37 The following ICRC personnel, based in Jakarta, were assigned to the operation in East Timor:

- 1 head of delegation
- 1 deputy head of delegation
- 1 tracing delegate
- 1 nurse
- 1 tracing secretary
- 1 administrative secretary

They were supported by 12 local employees.

38 The head and the deputy head of the delegation and the administrative secretary in Jakarta were assigned to this operation on a part-time basis. The post of the tracing secretary was cancelled at the end of September.

39 FINANCIAL SITUATION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1985

No.	Function	*Budget 1985 (SFr.)*	Spent or engaged (SFr.)
I	Protection/Tracing Agency	*644,754*	286,889
IV	Relief	*1,194,810*	822,185
V	Transport	*343,742*	249,471
VI	Programme Support/ Administration	*190,190*	92,337
IX	Overheads	*121,131*	77,071
X	Reserve	*186,304*	-
	Total	*2,680,931*	1,527,953

Comments:

40 As donors were informed in *Report No. 15*, the SFr. 1,118,508 (in cash) and kind on hand at the beginning of the second half of 1985 were considered sufficient to cover costs until the end of 1985. Contributions in kind worth SFr. 272,984 were budgeted for in 1985 and SFr. 140,234 were received (for details about contributions in cash and kind see the Annex).

41 The costs for the programme for family re-unification were considerably less than expected. Only one series of visits to detainees could be carried out during the second half of the year instead of the two which were planned. As explained in paragraph 33 the authorities have taken the responsibility of providing relief assistance to the villages on the main island where the population was found to be in need during the ICRC surveys. Transport costs were only about three quarters of those budgeted due to the decrease of the displaced people on Atauro during the second half of the year. The ICRC was also able to cut out the post of one desk officer at headquarters, which had been budgeted for for six months. All these factors contributed to a reduction in expenditure making it unnecessary to call on the reserves.

1986: OBJECTIVES AND BUDGET

OBJECTIVES

Protection

42 To conduct three series of visits to people detained in connection with the situation on East Timor.

43 To provide ad-hoc aid for detainees visited by the ICRC.

44 To provide aid for detainees' families in need.

Tracing Agency

45 To continue the programme for the reunion of separated families and to repatriate hardship cases to Portugal and to Australia.

46 To repatriate former Portuguese civil servants and their families to Portugal (about 400 people). This programme will be financed by the United Nations High Commission of Refugees.

47 To continue the exchange of family news by means of Red Cross messages. This service is intended mainly for people displaced to Atauro and for detainees visited by the ICRC.

48 To continue the programme to re-unite separated families on East Timor itself.

Relief and Sureys

Vulnerable villages

49 To continue medical and nutritional surveys in the villages on the main island where, on the basis of previous surveys and other information, the situation may present a problem (two surveys are planned for 1986).

Returnees

50 To continue surveys of ex-Atauro returnees (people brought back to the main island after having been displaced to Atauro). About 1,300 of these people

were seen by the ICRC in 1985. Approximately 2,800 people have yet to be visited.

Atauro

51 To continue to provide medical and relief assistance, mainly food, for people displaced on Atauro, of whom there are at present 940.

52 To provide people due to be taken back to the main island with enough food before they leave Atauro to cover their needs for two months.

53 1986 BUDGET

No.	Function	SFr.
I	Protection/Tracing Agency	1,452,700
IV	Relief	852,900
V	Transport	330,000
VI	Programme Support/Administration	138,100
IX	Overheads	123,100
X	Reserve	189,600
	Total	3,086,400

APPEAL

It will be seen that the cost of the budgeted programmes for the period 1 January to 31 December 1986 is:

SFr. 3,086,400

towards which the ICRC may count on pledged gifts in kind totalling SFr. 16,500, a promise of up to SFr. 723,000 to finance the repatriation of people to Portugal, as well as on the credit balance brought forward from the previous period of SFr. 498,200.

The ICRC therefore appeals for

SFr. 1,848,700

AND RE-EMPHASISES THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING "NON-EARMARKED" CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

ANNEX

LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS IN CASH AND KIND RECEIVED DURING 1985

Donor	Cash	Kind	Total
Government			
Indonesia	-	100,500	100,500
National Society			
Canada	202	-	202
Other			
EEC	-	39,734	39,734
Miscellaneous	4,531	-	4,531
Total	4,733	140,234	144,967